THE NEW YEAR.

FROM OUR DAILY PAPER OF JANUARY 1, 1850.

In obedience to time-honored custom, as well as to the dictates of our hearts, we offer to the readers of our journal the sincerest compliments of the season-wishing them and theirs health and happiness.

It is the fashion of those who subject all observances to the utilitarian standard, to look with coldness on the glee and merry-making which has so long welcomed the return of the Christmas holvdays, and the advent of the New Year. In this sentiment we cannot agree. For ourselves, we confess that the morning's discovery of the midnight pranks of old Santeclaus, the shouts of exulting childhood, the greetings of acquaintances and friends, the visit to the Presidential mansion at noon, the family gatherings round the paternal table, and then the long cheerful evening, enlivened with the sound of music and the intercourse of the light-hearted young, are all to us things welcome, nay, in some sort, things sacred. Sacred from ted States. early associations, and these of the pleasantest kind: sacred from the gladsome effusions of poets, who have felt in every age and Christian land the inspiration of the theme; and doubly sacred as connecting themselves with the progress of time, the responsibilities of life, and the joyful prospects which Christianity presents of a coming world. To "be merry and wise" is to be wise in the truest and the pleasantest way. To the sacred desk, where it appropriately belongs, we leave the task of eliciting from the approach of a new year those serious and healthful reflections which it must ever awaken in all right-minded men.

The Year so lately hailed the new is now the old, and numbered with those before the flood. Like TIME,

"When in approach, behind he hides his wings, And seems to creep, decrepit with his age : Behold him when passed by : what then is seen But his broad pinions, swifter than the winds? And all mankind, in contradiction strong, Rueful, aghast, cry out on his career."

#### NEW YEAR'S DAY.

FROM OUR DAILY PAPER OF JANUARY 2, 1850.

A happy day was yesterday, apparently, for nearly the entire population, resident and temporary, of the City of Washington, Georgetown, and the vicinage. The morning opened upon a sheet of snow on the ground, with the cold down to 6 above zero, as we saw it at between six and seven o'clock; but, as seen in different positions by others, down to 4°, and perhaps in some positions down to zero. A bright and unclouded sky during the whole day was favorable to the round of visits of civility and kindness.

The great centre of attraction was of course the President's Mansion, in which the PRESIDENT received and returned, with his characteristic and frank cordiality, the salutations of thousands of visiters of both sexes and of all classes of societyincluding the Heads of Departments, the Representatives of Foreign Powers, Judges of the Supreme Court, Senators and Representatives, and nearly all the Military, Naval, and Civil Officers of Government present in the city. The Music of the Marine Band, in full costume, assisted the harmony ment of the Marshal of the District, the Captain of friend. the Auxiliary Guard, and other officers, notwithstanding the multitude which poured into the building without intermission for several hours, the greatest good order generally prevailed.

The Heads of Departments, the Mayor of the City, and other Families, also received the compliments of the season from numerous visiters.

### THE EXTENT OF OUR COUNTRY. It has been computed that the United States have

a frontier line of 10,750 miles, a sea coast of 5,430 miles, a lake coast of 1,160 miles. One of its rivers is twice as long as the Danube, the largest river in Europe. The Ohio is 600 miles longer than the Rhine, and the noble Hudson has a navigation in the "Empire State" one hundred and twenty miles longer than the Thames. Within Louisiana are bayous and creeks, almost unknown, that would shame, by comparison, the Tiber or Seine. The State of Virginia alone is one-third larger than England. The State of Ohio contains three thousand square miles more than Scotland. The harbor of New York receives the vessels that navigate rivers, canals, and lakes to the extent of three thousand miles, equal to the distance from America to Europe. From the capital of Maine to the "Crescent City" is two hundred miles further than from London to Constantinople, a route that would cross England, Belgium, a part of Prussia, Germany, Austria, and Turkey.

OUR INTERCOURSE WITH OTHER NATIONS .- The annunciation in the President's Message that we are at peace with all nations, and desire to preserve amity with them, is displeasing to those who have been endeavoring to bring Great Britain and the United States into collision about Tiger Island, or the ship canal across the Isthmus; and the Secretary of State and the whole Cabinet are denounced as pusillanimous bunglers. We have no doubt that War with England, with or without cause, would be refreshing to some discontented spirits who cannot endure the "piping times of peace;" but we are thankful that we have a PRESIDENT and CABI-NET who have more discretion than to be influenced by idle clamor, and who study the real interests of the country, regardless of denunciation and abuse. The Union says that the dispute about the canal " is as good as settled," and we have no doubt that the affair of Tiger Island will be as easily and as broil the two nations in war. It would be wiser their place of destination. to direct the whole of our attention, at the present stead of seeking a foreign war .- Balt. Clipper.

The London Times, commenting on the narration of Sir James Ross, of the proceedings of the recent Arctic Expedition, says:

"Such and so great are the perils of the Arctic Seas. Of requited by the American Government. what avail can it be to hazard any more lives in such a region? We do not speak of any rational precautions that may be taken to convey assistance to Sir John Franklin and his party. If any further scheme can be devised likely to be attended with practical benefit to the missing expedition, by all means let it be carried out. But when this question shall Glory enough for one day have been set at rest forever-as we hope by the return of the gallant Franklin and his companions—let us hear no more of arctic expeditions. Enough, and more than enough, has already been done. We trust that every Government will for future discountenance such mad attempts, which are productive only of a great waste of money, and, of what is of far more importance, of much and useless sacrifice of valuable lives. In how much better a situation would the world have been at the present moment had the money and life wasted upon these mad expeditions been devoted to a more rational method of effecting the same objects! Suppose, for a moment, the available means wasted upon arctic voyages had

RECEPTION OF M. VON GEROLT, THE PRUS-

M. Von GEROLT, Minister Resident of his Majesty the King of PRUSSIA, was on Saturday (the State. Upon delivering his letter of credence, he made to the President the following address:

Mr. PRESIDENT: The King, my sovereign, has been deased to confer upon me again the honor of representing his Majesty's Government near the Government of the United States; and to devolve upon me thereby the duty of cultivating the friendly relations and of promoting the many interests which have united the two countries since the formation of this Government.

From year to year these interests have become more impo tant and intimate, in consequence of the increase of mutual commerce, the progressive emigration from my country to all parts of the United States, and the intercourse which so happily exists between the two countries, having for its object the advancement of the arts and sciences and the improvement of

In presenting to your Excellency the credentials of my Sovereign, as his Minister Resident, I feel happy in thus becoming the interpreter of the feelings of high esteem which his Majesty cherishes for your Excellency, and of his ardent and sincere wishes for the welfare and prosperity of the Uni-

To this address the PRESIDENT responded follows :

I have listened, sir, with satisfaction to the sentiments you have just addressed to me in the name of the King of Prussia, which are cordially reciprocated. And it affords me real pleasure to recognise and to receive you as the representative of his Majesty near the Government of the United States. Your return hither, (in the same diplomatic capacity which you held on a former occasion, with such advantage to the general interests and good understanding of the people and Governments of both nations, ) whilst it gives assurance of the continued confidence of your own, affords to this Government an ample guaranty that nothing will be omitted on your part to cultivate the best relations and to promote the special interests (alluded to by you) which combine to link the two countries in bonds of amity. You are already well and favorably known in the United States, and, in welcoming you back again to Washington, I trust that your sojourn among us may prove in every way agreeable.

### RECEPTION OF THE BRITISH MINISTER.

Sir HENRY LYTTON BULWER was presented to the PRESIDENT, by the SECRETARY OF STATE, on Monday, the 24th ultimo, at 2 P. M., as the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Great Britain. The Minister accompanied the delivery of his letter of credence with the subjoined remarks:

SIR: I need not say that it gives me the sincerest gratification to be the bearer of the credentials which I have just had the honor of placing in your hands.

Permit me to say, that in coming to your country I do not feel that I come as a foreigner to a foreign land. Our nations speak the same language, spring from the same race, and seem especially entrusted by Providence with the same glorious task of illustrating the Anglo-Saxon name, by extending the best interests of civilization through two great divisions of

I have an entire confidence, sir, that our two Government will act with the most perfect concord in carrying out this great design; and, for my own part, I unfeignedly assure you that I could not have a duty more congenial to my feelings than that of cultivating the most intimate and friendly relations between the Queen, my Sovereign, and that great Republic of which you are the worthy and distinguished President.

To these observations the PRESIDENT replied in the following terms:

SIR: I am much pleased to receive from your hands the letter of Her Majesty, your Sovereign, which accredits you the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary o Great Britsin near the Government of the United States, of the scene, and through the judicious arrange- and I cordially welcome you, in that high character, as a

Beyond the identity of origin, language, and duties, so appropriately alluded to by you as connecting our respective countries, there is much, sir, in their present relations calculated to impart unusual interest to your mission. That the best plans for extending the blessings of peace, commerce, and civilization may be executed by our perfect concord, is my most earnest wish; and the confidence you have expressed that the two nations will act in concert and harmony, in all wise and well-directed efforts for the accomplishment of such objects, is accepted by me in the cordial and sincere spirit in which it has been proposed by you.

I hope, sir, that your residence in this country may prove s agreeable to you, personally, as you have given me good eason for believing that it will be honorable and advantageous both to Great Britain and America.

# THE PACIFIC MAILS.

The repeated errors of a portion of the press touching the transportation of the mails between New York and San Francisco and Oregon, inculpate most unjustly, as we understand, the Post Office Department of the United States. The Head of that Department and his indefatigable associates have exerted their utmost efforts to secure the faithful performance of the various contracts with the Government of New Grenada and with individuals, and have not failed to employ all discretionary powers to dispatch the mails with promptitude and security. Among other mistakes, we are authorized to state that the allegation of the Editor of the Panama Echo," charging that certain draughts of the American Consul, Mr. NELSON, have been dishonored at the Department, is entirely incorrect. Inasmuch, however, as the Consul assumed to pay to the Government of New Grenada for the transporting the mails across the 1sthmus a sum berond the allowance stipulated in the Postal Treaty, the excess is held for consideration in the final settlement of his accounts.

The following editorial notices appeared in the Panama Echo' of the 8th December and in the Star" of the 4th :

"The mails for California would have been detained here, had not Cap'. McLEAN, Postal Agent from Washington, been present and expedited their transmission. Capt. Mc-Lean superintended the transportation of the last mails from Chagres to this place, and they were brought over in five days. We understand that Capt. McLean giving his guaranty for the reimbursement of the funds, Mr. Nelson again advanced the money for the California mails, (sixty-two bags ERS .- We are to have but one steamer in every amicably adjusted, notwithstanding the efforts which of mail matter, and 25,000 letters!) and they were placed two weeks during the winter and early part of are being made to produce excitement, and to em- on the steamship 'California,' which sailed last Thursday for

"The reception of the mail from San Francisco has also moment, to the adjustment of home difficulties, in- been arranged for by Capt. McLean, who will send it to the United States, and make, we hope, an arrangement for more regularity in its future transmission.

"Capt. McLean deserves the thanks of the American people for the promptness and energy with which he has acted in this matter, and we trust that his services will not go un-

"The mails which are now going up to San Francisco have been brought here by the indomitable perseverance of Capt. McLean from New York in sixteen days, will reach San Francisco in FORTY DAYS-the shortest trip ever made

GEORGIA .- The spirit of improvement which we have frequently noticed as having manifested itself in Georgia has caused the erection of four new towns in the southwestern portion of that State: Bristol, Montezuma, Oglethorpe, and Cuyler.

CORRECTION .- An error happened in the Report of the Secretary of the Interior, as printed in our paper of Tuesday week, which is worthy of correction. It occurs in the fifth been spent upon opening a passage through the Isthmus of paragraph from the end, where the word "pacification" is paragraph from the end, where the word "pacification" is printed instead of the words " pacific action."

AN ALLEGED DEFALCATION.

The following, from the New York Evening Post, contains more particulars than any other state ment that we have seen of a rumor which has cir-22d) presented to the President by the Secretary of culated for a day or two past, but of which we our selves know no more than is published in the news-

FROM THE NEW YORK EVENING POST. THE ALLEGED DEFALCATION .- The citizens of New York will read with astonishment and sorrow the following paragraph, which appears in the Philadelphia North American of

WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 27, 1849. The accounting officers of the Treasury have reported PROSPER M. WEYMORE, late Navy Agent of the United States at New York, to the Solicitor of the Treasury, as a defaulter in the enormous sum of Five Hundred and Fifther Thousand Dollars, and have recommended that prosecution shall be commenced against him forthwith. In consequence of this report and recommendation instructions have been issued from the Department to Prescott Hall, District Attorney of New York, to institute immediate proceedings

against the alleged delinquent.

The balances against Mr. Wetmore have, it is reported been accumulating throughout the entire term of the late Ad ministration. The surety in his official bond is only thirty

As might be expected, great sensation is felt in circles where it is known at this extraordinary disclosure.
[The above comes to us from a very reliable source; but, from our own knowledge and his high public position, we have so long been accustomed to regard Mr. Wetmore as a most worthy and estimable gentleman, that we cannot but express a confident hope that the alleged deficit will in some

way be satisfactorily explained .- Eds. North Amer. ]

Those who know Mr. Wetmore (says the Post) will put no faith in this charge, so far as it affects that gentleman's moral obligations to his Government, until it is confirmed from more authentic sources. Meantime, we have no hesitation in expressing our conviction that the whole spirit of the above paragraph is calumnious.

It is well known that the Navy Agent has a salary for specific services defined by law. Since the passage of that law additional duties have been imposed upon the agent at this port, for which we have understood he claims commissions For example, the funds for the construction of the Apalachicola dry dock, also for the lines of ocean steamers leaving this city, have been disbursed at their agency.

As to the propriety of Mr. Wetmore's claim we have no pinion, nor is there at present any occasion to express one. He asserts such a claim, and we take it for granted that when it has been legally determined that such claim is invalid, he will be prepared to respond faithfully to this Government for all which it claims from him.

Precisely the same claim has been made by Mr. Hall, the Navy Agent at Boston, which is now in litigation, and by the decision of which we understood that the Secretary of the Treasury had agreed to abide.

The amount stated by the Philadelphia paper is all wrong. We have good grounds for believing that the deficit does no exceed \$40,000.

Since writing the above, we have been gratified by receiving the following note from Mr. Wetmore, which confirms

A CARD.

A rumor from Washington is announced by telegraphic dispatch in the morning papers, affecting the integrity of a late agent of the Government in this city. As this rumor undoubtedly applies to myself, I beg leave to say to the public and my friends, that I have furnished legal vouchers to the proper officers of the Government for all my expenditures, the examination of which has not yet been completed. My accounts, therefore, are still open for adjustment. The differences arising between the Department and myself are precisely like those which have occurred and still exist between

the Department and other of its agents.

The amount in dispute is a limited one, and consists of charges for disbursements during the late war, entirely out of the usual province of the Navy Agency. Whatever balance

my accounts, will be promptly paid.

PROSPER M. WETMORE. NEW YORK, December 28th, 1849.

The New York Courier gives the following statement of the case :

" We understand that the case is simply this: The Navy for certain purposes, &c. which are distinctly specified. That service is paid for by the salaries they receive.

" During the late war with Mexico, and subsequently, great variety of extra business has been committed to their hands. They have been required to act for other stations, to discharge the deties of Pension Agents, to disburse moneys for the Ocean steamers, &c. ; duties which do not come within the specifications of the law in regard to their office. And for this service they claim extra pay.

"The correctness of the claim can of course only be tested by law, and for the purpose of testing it suit was commenced in Boston against the Navy Agent there, and it was understood that the decision of the Court in that case was to decide all the rest. After it had been thus ascertained what charges could be legally made, Mr. Wetmore could have made his account with the Government. The Government, i seems, has seen fit to commence suit against him for the whole amount of money sent to him during the last quarter, without, in the first instance, deducting even the disburse-ments for which they held vouchers. These, however, will be deducted, and from the balance, stated at about \$200,000, are to be deducted Mr. Wetmore's charges, to the amount fixed by the decision of the legal tribunals. After this has been ascertained, Mr. Wetmore assures the public and his friends 'whatever balance may be found to be due to the Government will be promptly paid;' and the public has and that it will be amply and satisfactorily redeen

The Journal of Commerce understands the case as the Coupublic moneys received by Mr. Wetmore during the past quarter that he was in office, without any deduction for his very large disbursements during the same period, of which the vouchers have been forwarded to Washington, and are doubtess in possession of the Treasury Department.

It may be so, (says the Express,) but we are assured, perhaps incorrectly, that no such sum was received during the last quarter of service, and consequently that the non-payment of accounts goes back beyond that period.

## MINING IN CALIFORNIA.

Mr. James B. Huie, who went to California in ommand of one of the Louisville (Ky.) companies, writes home that he is carrying on the auction and commission business in San Francisco, and is well pleased with his prospects. He says there are many ways for making money. Working in the mines, however, is not advisable for those unaccustomed to hard labor and exposure. About one in ten make a fortune in the mines. None of his acquaintances had made more than expenses. Many who are sick are seeking employment in the towns, and wish to return home. The steamers leaving for the United States are crowded with passengers, and so great was the anxiety to get off that tickets often sold at an advance of from \$200

WINTER ARRANGEMENT OF THE CUNARD STEAMspring. The arrangement is as follows: FOR LIVERPOOL.

December 15.

America....for Boston......Saturday. Canada.....for New York...Saturday. December 29. Niagara . . . . for Boston . . . . . Saturday January 12. for New York . . Saturday January 26. America . . . for Boston . . . . . Saturday . . . February 9. Canada.... for New York.. Saturday. February 23. FROM AMERICA.
Hibernia....from New York.. Wednesday December 28 Wednesday January 9. January 23. America . . . from Boston . . . Canada.....from New York .. Wednesday Niagara . . . from Boston . . . Wednesday February 6. Europa . . . . from New York . . Wednesday . . February 20 March 6. Mrarch 20.

Pentls of Expasse Ribins .- Mr. Calboun, the United States Mail Agent, who had charge of the expanses to carry the President's message to Boston, over the New Haven, Springfield, and Worcester roads, had two narrow escapes. At Wilden (Conn.) the locomotive, while going at a speed of the space to insert. - North American. forty five miles an hour, ran off the track, and made sad havec of the road for some distance, but providentially no one was in-jured, and the locomotive so little damaged that after a delay of forty five minutes it was at work again. At Warren, (Mass.) while going at the same rate, the engine again ran off the track, and a detention was thereby caused of an hour and thirty minutes. Notwithstanding these accidents and delays, the message was delivered in Boston before 6 A. M., the run ning time throughout averaging forty-five miles per hour.

THE TEXAS BOUNDARY.

FROM THE NEW YORK EXPRESS.

Rare events are occurring in the legislative proeedings of Texas, as will be seen by the news clated, we take the liberty to say that it is fro from that quarter. The Government of New Mexico is to be invaded vi et armis, and Texas is to been brought to this country by a desire to study withdraw from the Union, or her Senators and Repthe character of our institutions and people, as well resentatives from Congress, if New Mexico is adas in furtherance of certain scientific enterprises mitted as a State by Congress. The Rio Grande which he is prosecuting with great zeal, and with is urged as the rightful boundary of the State of encouraging prospects of success. On his return Texas upon the plea of conquest.

Now, it is known, well known, that the Territoy of New Mexico was never successfully invaded Texas. Gen. Green, who has recently written interest and value: letter claiming the resolutions of Texas, in 1836, as the cause of the war with Mexico, (those resolutions claiming the Rio Grande as a boundary,) was with Gen. FISHER, who ommanded the Texan force in the famous Mier expedition. They penetrated as far as the town of Mier, on the Rio Grande, where they were all taken prisoners by Gen. AMPU-This is the way, and the only way Texas conquered the ountry on the lower part of the Rio Grande. It was in the ame way that New Mexico was conquered three years before, in the Santa Fe expedition under McLzon. His entire crossed the Atlantic : it is on the American shores that the force was also captured by the Mexicans. Texas never made true philosopher must come to study the life and the growth any other attempt to establish her authority above Red river, of the largest empire now existing. or the latitude 34°, yet she claimed 42°, and this is the claim Mr. Polk enforced by war.

The claiming of such a boundary as the Rio Grande by great and civilized in less than a century. Washing Texas in 1836 was nothing remarkable. Flushed with the victory of San Jacinto, the Texans expected to fight their way up to such boundary. The iniquity of the thing was on the part of our Government in assuming that they had done from the ravages of time, and are covered with ruins, the so, when it was notorious that they had been totally defeated, in all their attempts to conquer the portions of Tamaulipas. Coahuils, Chihuahus, and New Mexico which they had covered by their paper boundary.

The part of New Mexico east of the Rio Grande, all which Texas has the assurance to claim, has a population of some eighty thousand, and Texas, by her mere volition, contrary to law and right, undertakes to force these people, with all the territory occupied by them, within her own borders Justice forbids the consummation of such an outrage.

Upon this subject we find a letter from California, writt by Thomas J. Green, giving an account of the country. In the course of his letter Gen. Green makes it his boast that he, being a member of the Texan Legislature in 1836, "solitary and alone," and against the advice of his friends, introduced the law fixing the boundary of Texas upon the Rio Grande, in accordance with the treaty of Santa Anna made after the battle of San Jacinto, and which was never ratified. He says

"The authority of this law, as President Polk stated all his messages to Congress, that caused him to order Gen. Taylor to the Rio Grande in defence of said boundary. That move brought on the war, and the war gave us California. Should this reminiscence escape the censure of egotism, it will at least remind us of the old adage that 'tall oaks from little

Gen. GREEN here claims for himself that we owe the ac uisition of California to him; that it was a consequence of aiming the Rio Grande as the boundary of Texas : that it Texas had only claimed what she had actually conquered, and what were her original limits, Mr. Polk could not have brought on the war by enforcing such claims; that the great majority of the Texan Congress were not at first disposed to assert any such claims, but that he persuaded them to it. We do not mean to argue this question here, but the letter proves what we have often asserted, that the annexation of Texas brought York, Paris, or London, it would have been impossible to on the war with Mexico.

The following is an extract from a Letter which is published in the Philadelphia Public Ledger, from without.

AUSTIN CITY, DECEMBER 10, 1849. A bill to organize the counties of Presidie; El Paso, Worth, and Santa Fe has already passed the Senate, and will pass the House in a few days. These counties lie on the Presidio and El Paso have been, for some time past, impatient to have their counties organized, and no obefacles are have the lines run, election precincts laid off, and elections for county officers holden. The Governor will be authorized and required to call out a sufficient force to put down any on position that may be met with.

There are some few bloods of the South Carolina breed in the Legislature. A resolution was introduced into the House a few days ago, requesting our Representatives and Secator n Congress to quit their seats in case a Delegate from Santa Fe should be admitted to a seat there. It gave rise to a warm lebate. A substitute was offered to appoint a committee to draught a remonstrance to the United States. The discussion was closed by a reference of the whole matter to a committee Nothing of the sort above related will pass. There scarcely one Senator who would vote for either proposition. They are determined that Texas shall not be guilty of any blusier or gasconade. The position which we have occupied since annexation is dignified and worthy of an independent State, which had so recently laid aside her crown. We shall not anticipate the action of Congress or the Executive by parade of what we will do in case the United States so signally violate our rights and their own faith. No memorials will be addressed to Congress; no instructions ever will be given to our Senators; but we will go about the erganization of the county of Santa Fe. If the people of Santa Fe resist, they will be whipped in. If the United States troops oppose us, we submit. We do not profess to be able to whip the United States, were we ever so much disposed to do so. We have no desire to embroil the North with the South. Texas will not fire the first gun in a war which, if it do come, will sweep over these broad States as fire sweeps over our prairie lands. If, in the end, (for Texas will be deliberate,) the United States

repudiate our title to Santa Fe. Texas will put on her crown again. And if they choose thus to steep their violated faith in the blood of Texans, they can have the doing of it. But no fears are entertained here upon the subject; we are as confident as men can be-of any future event, that our title to Santa Fe will be recognised without much more delay. The inauguration of our present Governor elect, P. H. Bell, will not take place till the 21st instant. It is expected that new life and much vigor will be inspired into our State Administration by that event. That Mr. Bell is a man to be depended upon in an emergency is certain; that he will not A bill to quiet land titles on the Rio Grande has been inroduced. The survey and patenting of lands west and north of the Nueces will be suspended until the next Legislature

IRON FOR EXTENDING THE OHIO BAILROAD We are authorized by Tuomas Swann, Esq., President of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, to publish the following Telegraphic despatch from T. W. Ward, Fisq., attorney of the Mesers. Barings, of London, laid before the committee or construction of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company this morning, announcing the gratifying intelligence that the contract for the swenty-three thousand tone of iron, required for the extension of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad from Cumberland to Wheeling, has been closed on terms which cannot fail to prove satisfactory :

" Boston, Depamber 31, 1349. To Thomas Swamn, Esq: The contract is made at five pounds ten. I will write by mail with particulars.

The purchase is made with the bonds of the Company. We congratulate the Board on the successful termination this important and weighty negotiation .- Balt. Patriot.

FRENCH COLONIAL SLAVE INDEMNITY .- The Courrier des Etats Unis publishes a lengthy decree of the President we can form a proper estimate of the finding in the case of of the French Republic, touching the distribution of the in-demnity fund accorded to the French Colonists, under the jury, extracted the truth as respects their individual opinions. law of the 30th April, 1849, by which the slaves there were It seems that eleven members were of opinion-not that enfranchised. The basis of the partition of the indemnity is Espana was guilty-but that sufficient evidence was adduced upon the following negro population in the Colonies:

and 550 apprentices ; Nossi Be and Sainte Marie 3,500. The partition is made subject to numerous and severe reprictions, which we have neither the lime to translate nor

s about to introduce a compromise tariff bill, to stand for twenty years, wherein specific and ad valorom duties are comsined. It is not acquainted with the details, but understands that be does not propose to raise the present scale of duties, but only to substitute the specific for the ad valorem where it A VIEW OF CONGRESS.

FROM THE NEW YORK JOURNAL OF COMMERCE.

That the annexed letter may be properly appreencouraging prospects of success. On his return to France it is his intention, we believe, to publish the results of his observations in a volume or volumes, in which case we may expect a work of great

"Here I am, in the American capital. Washington is the head of an empire larger than that of the Romans, who filled the world with their renown. The moderns hasten to visit the remains of the great republics of antiquity; they go among the ruine of palaces, of columns, of triumphal arches, and meditate on the instability of human grandeur. Such meditations are rather meditations on death than life. The torch of civilization has left the Roman world; civilization has

"In the old world nations employed many centuries to attain grandeur and civilization; the American empire has becom ton brings to mind Rome. Not that the seven hills are to voids in Washington are those of a virgin soil; and, while every day increases the remains of Rome, every day fills a pace marked by the foresight of the founder of Washington.

"True it is, St. Peter's is larger than the American Capitol. but St. Peter's was the last effort of the Roman power, dwin dling into the hands of a Pope.

"The institutions that made Rome great could alone keep it so. As long as those institutions were supported on the large basis of the people the Roman, empire stood; but it vacillated and fell when the republican institutions became corrupted, when power passed into a tyrant's hands.

"In all new countries men are nearly of equal strength. They have similar wants, they have similar passions. Institutions do not destroy strength, wants, and passions, but develop and regulate them. So long as America remains faithful to her institutions, so long will she prosper.

"At the opening of a new session I was anxious to ob serve the workings of these institutions. I do not know, nor care to know, what has been written from Washington by various correspondents belonging to different parties, but that during twenty days of inorganization so much order should have reigned, although the lower Chamber was presided over only by a Clerk, is to me a subject of admiration. The deliberations were steady and comparatively calm, considering the great questions that were agitated. A Speaker becoming a candidate in one night, obtaining one hundred and twelve votes, and falling suddenly to the ground, as well as som angry words spoken in the heat of debate, were mere trifles when compared to what passes in another republic on the other side of the Atlantic.

" Americans are evidently made for self-government, and the last twenty days passed in an abnormal state support this opinion. Yet I admired the foresight of the framers of the constitution, who placed the seat of the empire far from the prevent the mob from assembling around the building, and the deliberations would have been influenced by the pressure

"Indeed, the members went to Congress as to a scientific meeting; they stoically bore the tediousness of sixty-four ballots, and ended by organizing the House. To an unprejudiced mind, the calm and perfect quietness of all the citizen Rio Grande. Their positions are indicated by their names. of the Union during that little struggle, shows the marked Worth lies between El Paso and Santa Fe. The people of difference between the United States and European Governments. The President waited patiently the organization of expected to be encountered in the organization of them. As the House, and the country did the same; so certain are the Americans that they are masters of them their organization provides that a Commissioner shall be appointed, whose duty it shall be to proceed without delay to wrecked on a grain of send."

## THE REY AFFAIR.

FROM THE MOBILE REGISTER OF DECEMBER: 18. The New Orleans abduction papers-the Picayune, Delta, &c .- express unqualified dissatisfaction with the finding of the Grand Jury in this case. They believed last summer that a very proper abduction had taken place; they proved it to their en

tire satisfaction, and they are astonished that rightminded men should by any possibility think otherwise now. The refusal of the Grand Jary to find a true bill does not satisfy them. They have accordingly entered the Grand Jury room, notwithstanding the seal of secrecy by which, according to every rule of reason and propriety, their proceedings should be protected from public or private scrutiny, and, having eviscerated its doings, they parade the esult in their columns to prove that, as the jury were equally divided in opinion, one-half in favor and the other opposed to finding a

Jury, which, let it be remembered, does not pass upon the guilt or innocence of the accused. The law, from its tender regard for life and liberty, and to protect men from malicious prosecutions, provides that a man charged with crime shal! have the finding of twelve men, declaring on outh that there is probable cause for believing him guilty of the charge preferred, before be can be called on to answer it. The action of the Grand Jury is not a trial, nor has it any of the characeteristics of a trial, for it frequently takes cognizance of the delogs of a rogue when he is in blissful ignerance of its procoolings. Its acts are expans. It hears only the evidence for the prosecution. Bat under the seal of secrecy, to which is members are sworn, it has ample scope and verge enough for the examination of a charge in all its bearings. Its meanbers are required, by their paths, to disclose to each other every thing they know as b the guilt of the accused and such information thus given comes with the authority of testimony on oath, and is so regarded.

A grand jutor who knows his duty does not require as con clusive testimony to justify his putting a man upon trial as he expects to found a verdict of guilty upon. It note unfrequently happens, sa every one knows, that a man, tried in virtue of the finding of a "true bill," when his witnesses are heard against those of the prosecution, is acquitted without the jury retiring from the box. Instances of this will occur to every one. And who ever pretended that the verdict of a jury of twelve men, the result of an impartial trial, upon a hearing of both sides, was entitled to no more consideration than the finding of a "true bill" by twelve men standing in the Grand Jury box? And yat, according to the reasonin of the Picayane, the one should neutralize the other. The triumphant acquittal of aman in open court cannot be pleaded to re-establish him in society, because there stands the finding of the Grand Jury pronouncing him guilty " Such a thing never was beard of. Now, with these views of the functions of a Grand Jury.

to justify them in saying that he should be put upon his trial. For Martinique 74,447; Guadaloupe 87,037; the Re- Twelve members were of a contrary opinion; that is, that mion 60,651; French Guiana 12,525; Senegal 9,800 slaves, upon a hearing of but one side, an examination of all the proofs of guit the Government could bring before them, the evidence was not only insufficient to establish his guilt, but was not enough to justify them in calling upon the man to defend himself. And yet, with this decision of the case, in a community where the excitement tended strongly to produce The Dry Goods Reporter says and repeats that Mr. Clay a contrary result, the Picayune and others are dissatisfied, and insist as strongly upon the Consul's guilt now as they did last summer. But the country will be satisfied with the termination of the affair. Public opinion will give the abduction its place among the popular humbugs of the day. And nothing that the Picayune, Delta, &c. can say, however vociferously, can avert it.

DEATH OF THE PROPHET OF THE "MILLERITES."

Mr. WILLIAM MILLER died at his home in Kompton, Washington county, (N. Y.) on the 20th instant, aged 68 years. Mr. Muler was a native of Pittsfield, (Mass.) and during the last war with England served as a Captain of Volunteers on the Northern frontier. He began to speak in public assemblies upon the subject of the Millennium in 1833, and in the ten years which preceded the time which he had set for the confirmation of all prophecy, he labored assiduously in the Middle and Northern States, averaging, it is said, nearly one sermon a day for more than half that period. He was uneducated, and not largely read in even the common English commentaries; his views were absurd, and supported but feebiy; yet he succeeded in building up a sect of some thirty or forty thou-sand disciples, which disappeared rapidly after the close of the "day of probation" in 1843, after which time Mr. Miller himself did not often advocate or defend his views in public.

A CARD FROM MR. WM. J. BROWN. The Indiana State Sentinel publishes the following CARD, which has been issued by the Hon. Mr. Brown to his immediate constituents :

> A CARD. To the Editors of the State Sentinel.

GENTLEMEN : Enclosed is a card which I published in the Inion in relation to the late contest for topeaker. It speaks for itself. I ask you to publish it, with the speech of Mr. Wilmot. It explains the circumstances up der which I was oted for as Speaker. I declared to the F ree-Soil men that f elected I would appoint Committees off it e Judiciary, the District of Columbia, and on Territories comp osed of able and impartial members from both the North and the South, who would act fairly and not stiffe the public voice by refusing to report upon the important questions of slavery , that might be

This declaration, made in good faith and all candor, has seen denounced by Southern men as treachery of t he blackest character. From this charge I appeal to my comstituents and to the freemen of the Northern States. Ought I to have done otherwise? I had rather been defeated with it is vote I received than to have been elected under a pledge to pack the committees for the benefit of the slaveholding inta rest of the South.

But the time has come when the North will no longs 'r bow the neck to slaveocracy of the South. I am done. She ca unnot be satisfied with a moderate and conservative support, but you must become the defender of her institutions. If you doubt or falter, you are denounced as a traitor, and with it a ordly arrogance you are told that they will dissolve the Unio. n. Their course of conduct has fully determined me never agai to be a candidate for Congress. My conscience tells me have done right, and I know a generous and confiding constituency will sustain my course.

WM. J. BROWN.

FROM NEW MEXICO.

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLICATION.

SANTA FE, (N. M.) OCT. 28, 1849; Colonel Mexice, our new Governor and military comandant, arrived with his reinforcements on the 22d ultime. and has assumed the command in this Territory. Too short a time has yet passed to form an opinion as to his fitness for operaion of a mob. Had the Congress been held in New the post he occupies, but almost the first act, as commander of the forces, has been one which has met with universal approbation; except among the officers of the army affected by it. He has ordered all the troops in the Territory to remain

> The Governor has also assigned the troops to posts which he deems important to be occupied, and, with activity and vigilance on their part, much may be done towards the suppression of outrages, such as we have been suffering from

The Colonel has also expressed his intention not to interfere in the civil administration of the Territory as found by him upon his entrance, but to give it all that support which

of Mr. White's party, and the carrying off of his lady and child, the citizens of the city took steps to secure her ransom. The generous hearted AUBRER at once offered one thousand dollars as a reward for her redemption, and measures were ta-ken to send out Pueblo Indians, who are assumed with the haunts of the Apaches who have her in captivity, to treat with her captors for her release. An express from the Hon. Judge Beausien, of Taos, gives information of the direction taken by the Apaches with their captives, and hopes are entertained that the lady and child may yet be restored to their friends.

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1849.

LEMAN D. STICKNEY, Esq., of Indiana, J. Scott Rich-ran, Esq., of Iows, and Luman Sherwood, Esq., of New-York, were admitted Attorneys and Counsellors of this Court. No. 247. Andrew Irvin, appellant, es. William S. Parham or Louisians.
On the motion of Gen. HENDERSON this appeal was docket-

ed and dismissed with costs.

No. 55. The United States, plaintiff in error, vs. McKean
Buchanan. The argument of this cause was continued by
Mr. Gillert for the plaintiff in error, and by Messrs. Where

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2; 1850. No. 32: Benjamin Rupert vs. Timothy Davis. Appeal from the Supreme Court of Iowa. The appellant having failed to appear, this appeal was, on the motion of Mr. Dawners, of counsel for the appellees, diamissed with costs.

No. 105. Eli Clark et al., plaintiffs in error, vs. Manufacture.

turers' Insurance Company. This cause was submitted to the Court on the record and printed arguments by Mr. Gra-LETT for the plaintiffs in error, and Mr. HALL for the defendant in error.

No. 26. A. L. Mills, plaintiff in error, vs. S. Stoddard! et al. The argument of this causa-was concluded by Mr. Gammas for the plaintiff in error.

No. 32. J. Cheesman et al., plaintiffs in error, vo. Thomas-

Watson. This cause was argued by Mr. Binn for the plaintiffs in error, and submitted on printed arguments by Messrs.

WEARTON and MEREDITH for the defendant in error. No. 34. J. M. Reed, plaintiff in error, vs. Propriet locks and canals on Merrimack river. The argument of this cause was commonced by Mr. PARKER for the plaintiff in

TRUBSDAY, JANUARY 3, 1850.

Lawis E. Pansons, Esq., of Alabama, was admitted ac attorney and counsellor of this Court.

No. 17. H. W. Ladd vs. J. B. Ladd et al. Appeal from The Circuit Court of the United States for the District of Co-lambia. Mr. Justice DANTER, delivered the opinion of this Court, affirming the decise of the said Circuit Court in this

cause, with spate.

No. 195. E. Peale, plaintiff in error, vs. M: Phipps et al.

Mr. Justice McLean delivered the opinion of this Court, overruling the motion to dismiss this writ of error.

No. 34. J. M. Reed, plaintiff in error, vs. the Proprietors

of Locks and Canals on the Merrimec river. The argument of this cause was continued by Mr. Panken for the plaintiff in error, and by Mr. Ronguson for the defendants in error.

COMMISSION ON CLAIMS AGAINST MEXICO.

Thousday, December 27, 1849. The memorial of Samual Toby, surviving partner of Thomas Toby & Brosher, of New Orleans, claiming for seizure and confection of the cargo of the Mexican schooner Columbia, in the mouth of the Brasos, May 1835, by the Mexican schooner Montezuma, was submitted, examined, and ordered to be received.

The Board then took up and held for some time under consideration the cases No. 3, (of Benjamin Holbrook, in the matter of Ship John,) and No. 65, (of John Boldsa.;) but, without coming to any final decision thereon,

The Board adjourned until II A. M. to-morrows. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1849. The cases of Holbrook (No. 3) and Belden (No. 65) were esumed and further considered; but, without coming to any

ecision thereon, THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 1830.

The memorial of James O'Flaherty, master of schooner William A. Turner, claiming for two seizures of his vessel, and for imprisonment of himself, being once more taken up for consideration, together with the proofs and documents connected therewith, the Board came to an opinion that the claim is valid, and the same is allowed accordingly; the amount awarded to be subject to the future action of the Board.

The memorial of Robert J. Clow, of La Vaca, Texas, claiming for the destruction of his goods at several mercantile establishments in Texas by the Mexican invading army in 1836, was submitted; but its reception for the present sus-

pended.

The Board then adjourned until 11 A. M. of Monday naxt.